Narwana are already connected by BG route via Jakhal (74 kms.). Chandigarh & Hissar are linked by BG route viz Narwana-Jakhal.

(b) Conversion of Rewari-Hissar-Bhatinda MG line to BG has been taken up and Bhatinda-Hissar (157 kms) is targetted for completion during 93-94. On completion of conversion of the section, Hissar and Sirsa will also be linked by BG route via Bhatinda and Rajpura as well.

(c) It will depend on the offering of traffic on completion of conversion work.

(d) This can be determined only after a survey is taken up for which there is no proposal at present.

Import of Crude and Petroleum Products

*157, SHRI MD. SALIM :
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked over 6 billion dollars for the import of crude and petroleum products to meet internal demand;

(b) if so, whether this step would not put pressure on the scarce foreign exchange reserve; and

(c) in what manner Government would manage this position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Since the Unification of the Exchange Rate with effect from 1-3-1993 there is no mechanism of earmarking of foreign exchange for import of any item including for import of crude and petroleum products. The Indian Oil Corporation which is the main canalising agency for imports of both crude and petroleum products is expected to obtain necessary foreign exchange under the Modified Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (MLERMS). The foreign exchange is to be obtained from authorised dealer at a market determined rate.

As the requirement of foreign exchange for import of crude and petroleum products is dependent on various factors like the prevailing prices of crude and petroleum products; prevailing exchange parity of the rupee with the dollar and other factors, the likely impact on the foreign exchange reserves is not feasible to be estimated at this stage.

*158 [*Transferred to 14th May*, 1993]

Issue of bogus Railway season tickets

*159 SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railway officials and staff at Thane/Kalyan Railway Station on Central Railway were involved in issuance of bogus season tickets;

(b) what are the details of staff and action taken against them;

(c) what is the extent of loss incurred by Railway due to this scandal; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the official enquiring into this affair has been missing and is believed to have been killed by the gang involved in the scandal?